

Statement on October 7 Regional Council Action on the SoCal Greenprint

On Oct. 7, the Regional Council voted to continue the pause on implementation of the SoCal Greenprint to allow for further engagement with stakeholders to ensure the tool advances the policy direction and requirements of the mitigation measures in the Program Environmental Impact Report and related Addendum No. 1 for Connect SoCal, the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Since the beginning of development on the SoCal Greenprint in January 2020, SCAG has benefited greatly from collaborating with and listening to the many needs and concerns of our stakeholders. Following direction at the July 2021 Regional Council meeting, SCAG hosted public hearings on Aug. 24 and Oct. 7 to hear from stakeholders and provide more information on the project. SCAG also released a survey to seek feedback on the proposed data list that will be used to create the tool's interactive maps.

What's Next

SCAG staff will work to meet the direction of the Regional Council by developing a white paper and working with a five-member advisory task group to establish a policy framework for advanced mitigation, conducting an open advisory meeting for further review and revision of data layers, completing user testing with stakeholders to ensure the tool meets the needs of cities, counties, and transportation agencies, and engaging in continued public outreach.

Once prospective user testing is complete, SCAG staff will return to the Regional Council and Energy and Environment Committee to demonstrate the tool, provide a report on the white paper and a proposed policy framework for advanced mitigation, seek feedback prior to public launch, and to remove the pause.

The full action as directed by the Regional Council is as follows:

Staff recommends that the Regional Council continue the pause on Greenprint implementation as directed on July 1, 2021, with additional direction that staff:

- 1. Develop a white paper and work with a 5-member advisory task group of the Regional Council (appointed by the President and which will automatically disband upon reporting its findings to the Regional Council as provided in Item 8 below) on establishing a policy framework for advanced mitigation in the SCAG region to ensure the Greenprint is aligned with policy objectives;*
- 2. Develop the SoCal Greenprint as identified in Connect SoCal and its associated Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) with explicit focus on helping cities, counties and transportation agencies make better land-use and transportation infrastructure decisions and conserve natural and farm lands;*
- 3. Include features in the SoCal Greenprint to convey limitations and foster its proper use, such as a disclosure statement and mandatory user acknowledgement feature;*

4. *Conduct an open advisory meeting for further review and revision of data layers to meet the needs of cities, counties and transportation agencies;*
5. *Remove datasets for inclusion in the tool if they are not publicly available (i.e. layers are accessible for download online, or are downloadable via request and/or license to the author or custodian of the data);*
6. *Complete prospective user testing with at least ten stakeholders representing cities, counties and transportation agencies to ensure that the tool is working and functional as developed with targeted audiences;*
7. *Engage in continued public outreach as described at the July 1, 2021 RC meeting; and*
8. *Return to the Regional Council and Energy & Environment Committee once prospective user testing is complete to demonstrate the tool, provide a report on the white paper and a proposed policy framework, seek feedback prior to public launch and to remove the pause.*

SCAG thanks the many stakeholders and partners that are helping to contribute to the SoCal Greenprint. We encourage you to stay engaged as the project continues through this process. Please contact scagggreenregion@scag.ca.gov for any questions or comments.